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PREMATURE MORTALITY IN CALIFORNIA, 2000

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Years of potential life lost before age 75 (YPLL-75) is one of the commonly used measures in public health to reflect the impact of premature mortality on a population.¹ This report summarizes 2000 California mortality data for selected causes of death contributing to premature mortality as measured by YPLL-75, and compares 2000 data with 1999 data. Beginning in 1999, cause of death is reported using the Tenth Revision of the *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD-10). Prior to 1999, premature mortality reports were based on the Ninth Revision of the *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD-9); therefore no direct comparisons will be made between this report and earlier reports.

YPLL-75 reflects the impact of deaths occurring before the age of 75; the younger the decedent the greater the measured impact. An example would be a 29-year-old woman who dies from Human Immunodeficiency Virus Disease (HIVD). This event would be counted as 46 years of potential life lost. A 73-year-old man who dies from Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (CLRD) would be counted as two years of potential life lost.

Total YPLL-75 for California residents increased slightly (0.5 percent) from 1999 to 2000. During this time, YPLL-75 declined for six of the 14 selected causes of death and increased for eight (**Table 1**, page 2). Premature mortality declined for HIVD (-10.7 percent), sudden infant death syndrome (-6.3 percent), unintentional injuries (-3.7 percent), and CLRD (-2.6 percent). A slight decrease was seen in diseases of heart (-1.3 percent) and perinatal period (-1.0 percent). Premature mortality increased for influenza and pneumonia (+8.3 percent), chronic liver disease and cirrhosis (+6.3 percent), congenital malformations (+4.5 percent), and diabetes mellitus (+2.8 percent). A slight increase was seen in cerebrovascular diseases (+1.9 percent), homicide (+1.6 percent), suicide (+0.5 percent), and malignant neoplasms (+0.1 percent).

As shown in **Table 2** (page 2), malignant neoplasms (cancers) accounted for a total of 29,675 deaths, representing 425,573 (22.0 percent) of the total YPLL-75 for California residents during 2000. Deaths attributed to diseases of heart (21,733) ranked second in 2000 and accounted for 285,846 (14.8 percent) of the total YPLL-75. Unintentional injuries occupied the third rank and accounted for 7,161 deaths and a YPLL-75 of 257,482 (13.3 percent of the total). Perinatal period was ranked fourth and accounted for 1,371 deaths and 102,636 (5.3 percent) of the total YPLL-75. The low number of deaths and high YPLL-75 for unintentional injuries and perinatal period shows the greater impact these two causes of death have on younger California residents. This is in contrast to malignant neoplasms and diseases of heart, the first and second ranked causes of death, which affect older Californians at higher rates.

¹ National Center for Health Statistics. *Health, United States, 2000 with Adolescent Health Chartbook*; DHHS Pub No. (PHS) 2000-1232 9-0725 June 2000.

Homicide ranked as the fifth leading cause of premature mortality, accounting for 90,673 (4.7 percent) of the total 2000 YPLL-75. Suicide ranked sixth and accounted for an additional 86,860 (4.5 percent of the total) YPLL-75. Congenital malformations ranked seventh and resulted in 74,781 (3.9 percent) of the total YPLL-75. Deaths due to chronic liver disease and cirrhosis ranked eighth, accounting for 63,674 (3.3 percent) YPLL-75. Cerebrovascular diseases ranked ninth and accounted for 60,862 (3.1 percent) YPLL-75. The remaining categories, excluding the All Other Causes category, made up less than ten percent of the total YPLL-75 in California for 2000.

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TABLE 1
ESTIMATED YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST BEFORE AGE 75 (YPLL-75)
BY SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH, CALIFORNIA 1999 and 2000
(By Place of Residence)

SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH	ICD-10 CODES	1999 YPLL-75	2000 YPLL-75	NUMERIC DIFFERENCE	PERCENT CHANGE
TOTAL		1,926,431	1,936,423	9,992	0.5
Malignant Neoplasms	C00-C97	425,037	425,573	536	0.1
Diseases of Heart	I00-I09,I11,I13,I20-I51	289,557	285,846	-3,711	-1.3
Unintentional Injuries	V01-X59,Y85-Y86	267,495	257,482	-10,013	-3.7
Conditions Originating In The Perinatal Period	P00-P96	103,638	102,636	-1,002	-1.0
Homicide	X85-X99,Y00-Y09	89,213	90,673	1,460	1.6
Suicide	X60-X84	86,427	86,860	433	0.5
Congenital Malformations	Q00-Q99	71,590	74,781	3,191	4.5
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	K70,K73-K74	59,903	63,674	3,771	6.3
Cerebrovascular Diseases	I60-I69	59,709	60,862	1,153	1.9
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	J40-J47	47,943	46,678	-1,265	-2.6
Human Immunodeficiency Virus Disease	B20-B24	50,328	44,955	-5,373	-10.7
Diabetes Mellitus	E10-E14	42,385	43,589	1,204	2.8
Influenza and Pneumonia	J10-J18	21,857	23,676	1,819	8.3
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	R95	17,775	16,650	-1,125	-6.3
All Other Causes	Residual	293,574	312,488		

Source : State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Records.

TABLE 2
DEATHS, RATES AND ESTIMATED YEARS OF POTENTIAL LIFE LOST BEFORE AGE 75 (YPLL-75)
BY SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH, CALIFORNIA 2000
(By Place of Residence)

SELECTED CAUSES OF DEATH	ICD-10 CODES	DEATHS	RATE*	YPLL-75	RANK
TOTAL		99,646	302.9	1,936,423	
Malignant Neoplasms	C00-C97	29,675	90.2	425,573	1
Diseases of Heart	I00-I09,I11,I13,I20-I51	21,733	66.1	285,846	2
Unintentional Injuries	V01-X59,Y85-Y86	7,161	21.8	257,482	3
Conditions Originating In The Perinatal Period	P00-P96	1,371	4.2	102,636	4
Homicide	X85-X99,Y00-Y09	2,030	6.2	90,673	5
Suicide	X60-X84	2,686	8.2	86,860	6
Congenital Malformations	Q00-Q99	1,198	3.6	74,781	7
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	K70,K73-K74	3,122	9.5	63,674	8
Cerebrovascular Diseases	I60-I69	4,718	14.3	60,862	9
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	J40-J47	4,525	13.8	46,678	10
Human Immunodeficiency Virus Disease	B20-B24	1,446	4.4	44,955	11
Diabetes Mellitus	E10-E14	3,182	9.7	43,589	12
Influenza and Pneumonia	J10-J18	1,624	4.9	23,676	13
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	R95	222	0.7	16,650	14
All Other Causes	Residual	14,953	45.5	312,488	

* Cause-specific death rates are per 100,000 population under age 75 (n=32,898,179).

Source : State of California, Department of Finance; 2000 Population: Population Projections by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Sex, December 1998.
State of California, Department of Health Services, Death Records.